

## Architecture Update

### Disaster Management Conference in Nepal

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director and Tahmina Rahman, Research Assistant of Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) attended "Dealing with Disasters 2009 International Conference Resilience through Local Governance" held during 11- 12 November, 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference was attended by senior policy makers, disaster management specialists, academics from university sectors and a wide range of practitioners representing from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, UK, Italy, Denmark, Brazil, USA and Zimbabwe. This was organized as part of the Dealing with Disasters events held in Teesside in 2006, Northumbria in 2007 and Cardiff in 2008.



The conference was addressed in the following five themes:

- Health Security and Risk
- Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
- Communication, Dialogue, Networks and Education
- Local Emergency Management
- Scientific and Technical Support to Local Disaster Risk Reduction.

Professor Mallick presented his paper "Dissecting Disasters: the educational perspective" in the Communication, Dialogue, Networks and Education theme. He expressed disasters not only as events, but also likely events and events that have happened. He analyzed the continuum and the components of disaster and normal time and how each can complement the learning process about disasters in a way that would lead to a better understanding about curriculum formation in disaster education.

Tahmina's paper was "Structural Strengthening of Settlements in the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh" in the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction theme. She suggested that physical strengthening of coastal settlements through building/repairing of dwelling houses with local good practice, formal engineered technique, and available sustainable materials, community planning, and improvement of infrastructures can reduce damage of assets and physical environment and thus help in the climate change adaptations.

### Faculty visits USA to develop Exchange Program

Professor Zainab Faruqui Ali travelled to the United States during 8-18 November 09 primarily to develop an exchange student program between the University of Illinois at Chicago [UIC] and BRACU. Prof. Ali also delivered lectures at UIC and the Catholic University at Washington DC. Her lecture topic included "Looking at the Works of the Western Master Architects in the East".



At UIC, Prof. Ali met with the student and faculty nominees tentatively selected to participate in the exchange program. She also had several meetings with the Dean, Director and members of the faculty and administrative staff at the School of Architecture. The MoU of this program has been signed by the authorities of both the universities. The first event of the exchange is scheduled for Summer 09 semester when the UIC students accompanied by a UIC faculty will visit Bangladesh to participate in a joint design project with the Architecture students at BRACU. Later they will visit different parts of Bangladesh and India to see examples of old and new architecture.

### Faculty received Berger Young Architects' Award

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, senior lecturer, has been awarded the Berger Young Architects' Award on 5th November, 2009 for the project, Pubail Retreat as commendation award in the Non Residential category. The project celebrates the nature through ephemeral/fragile architecture/landscape. Design, construction and maintenance of the ongoing architecture/landscape are done by the local people where Kabir participates as a facilitator/ animator.



## Celebration party for Architecture Students' Achievement

Department of Architecture, BRAC University celebrated first November, 2009, honoring the three winners of design charette (one day design competition) held at the department of architecture, north south university on 19 October as a part of their 'architecture week', the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were all won by students of architecture, BRACU. The students are:

1st prize: Nazmul Haque and Raiyan Samiul Haque  
2nd prize: Tamzid Farhan Mogno and Inteza Shariar  
3rd prize: Dhrubo Antor and Sonia Kamal



Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Pro Vice Chancellor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, PhD, Treasurer Mr. Sukhendra K Sarker, Chairperson Professor Fuad H Mallick, students and faculty members of architecture were present in that event.



## Trip to Panam Nagar

Freshmen students visited Panamnagar area in Sonargaon as part of their design and graphic communication courses on October 14, 2009 along with their studio teachers. Panamnagar has been included as the reserved archeological sites in Bangladesh for its rich heritage value. The students

analysed the buildings and documented details through photographs, sketches and measured drawings.

## BBS Update

### BRAC Business School Student being recognized as BoP Enthusiast at TU Delft, The Netherlands

Iftekhar UI Karim, student at BRAC Business School was recognized as Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) Enthusiast (Dutch term for enthusiastic pursuit) and successfully participated in the International Conference on Impact of Base of the Pyramid Ventures at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands from 16-18 November, 2009. The conference provided a platform to share conceptual and empirical evidences that address ways to better understand and increase the sustainability impacts of BoP ventures in developing countries. Iftekhar received a full travel scholarship from Royal Philips, the sponsor of this BoP meet and negotiated at the Value Creation and Sustainable Consumption workshops devising the Bottom-up approach and start-up phase tools for BoP ventures.



### BU reaches final of BRANDWitz 2009

BRAC University took part in this competition with two teams, "Athena" (Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury, Tausif Islam & Nadim Abdullah) and "Zenith" (Shamminaz Polen, Monamee Afroz Ishika, Moutushe Mahreen). The whole competition was divided into 3 days from 21st November to 23rd November; excluding a one day workshop on Branding and case solving on 20th November. In the first day of the competition all the 44 teams participated. The teams were divided into 8 different groups with raffle and each group was given a case to solve within the span of 1 Hour time limit. "Zenith" stood out with the 2nd highest marks and made their place in the top 15. On the 2nd day of the competition; all the 15 teams were asked to make a detail campaign of a Unilever product (The AXE). Among the 15 teams "Zenith" made its place in the top 6 and was selected for the Final. The final took place at Bangabandhu Conference Centre. The media partner ATN Bangla telecasted the Final round on 26th November'09. Unilever BD sponsored the entire event.

## BDI Update

### BDI receives financial award from Columbia University

BDI has received a financial award from the Earth Institute at Columbia University to upgrade and revamp the Masters in Development Studies program. BDI has been planning a flagship Masters program -- a day program attracting both students and practitioners in a course that combines the best of theoretical classroom teaching with the rich practical field experience that exists. The grant and the network of universities affiliated with Columbia University will assist BDI greatly in designing and offering this new program. BDI will hold discussions with different institutes and departments at BRAC University to build a

truly effective interdisciplinary graduate development studies program.

### **BDI Hosts CGAP-FORD Second Annual Global Graduation Meeting**

BDI hosted the CGAP-FORD Second Annual Global Graduation Meeting from November 16th-20th. Inspired by BRAC's Targeting the Ultra Poor Program (TUP), BRAC Development Institute has partnered with CGAP of World Bank to combine and sequence various safety net programs along with microfinance services to create a pathway for the poorest out of extreme poverty. So far, nine pilots have been implemented in seven countries.

The meeting comprised of two parts- November 16th to 17th was a two-day workshop organized at the BRAC Center in Rajendrapur to discuss about the pilots, share lessons learned, ask questions and discuss success stories with others. The second part of the meeting took place at Hotel Sarina from the 19th to 20th where stakeholders such as donors and programme evaluators were invited to join the discussion along with participants from all the pilots.



### **Pathways of Women's Empowerment Feminist Organizing Workshop in Bellagio, Italy**

Maheen Sultan, Coordinator of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, and Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow, convened a workshop in preparation of their proposed book "Voicing Demands: Feminist Reflecting on Strategies, Negotiations and Influence" at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy from 2-5 November. The workshop was organized by the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme and brought together activists and scholars from 11 countries to share drafts of their chapters for feedback and review. The book will contain stories from feminist activists and academics that reflect on the experiences of feminist

activism in exercising voice to realize their rights and negotiate their citizenship with the state and is due out in late 2010.

### **Discussant at Realizing Rights Research Findings Seminar**

Firdous Azim, Lead Research of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme, participated at the research findings seminar on 'Understanding Sexuality and Rights in Dhaka City' as a Discussant. The seminar was organized by the James P. Grant School of Public Health and Realizing Rights Research Consortium and took place on 9 November.

### **Pathways Research Consortium's Communications Team Meeting**

The Communications Officers of the five hubs of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme (Latin America, Middle-East, West Africa and UK and South Asia) met in Dhaka in mid-November to review the communication tasks, develop tool-kits and plan on cross-hub projects. They also helped facilitate the two Digital Story-Telling workshops that were held in November.

### **Digital Story-Telling Workshops**

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme organized two Digital Story-Telling workshops in November. Digital Stories are 2-3 minute multimedia stories that participants create about their own lives through script-writing, recording, scanning documents, and movie editing. The first workshop, held during 12-14 November, consisted of researchers from the BRAC Development Institute. The second workshop, held during 19-21 November, brought together university students, women attending religious classes and female Vice-Chairmans from Upazila Parishads of three districts. A Closing Ceremony was held on 21 November where five of the Digital Stories created were screened and certificates for the training were distributed by Syed Hashemi, Director, BDI.

### **Sexual Health Research Methodologies Workshop participation**

Aanmona Priyadarshini and Iqbal Ehsan from BDI attended a two-day training on research methodologies for studying sexual health for researchers and others working with vulnerable populations on 22 and 23 November. The training was organised by Realizing Rights Research Programme Consortium of the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and drew on their recently completed work on sex workers and vulnerable minorities in Pakistan.



## CfL Update

### **Nipa Nasrin has her paper published**

Nipa Nasrin's paper titled 'In Richard Wright's Native Son, the Gaze of the White Eye, Ironically Selfblinding, Works as Panopticon and Makes the Black Go Blind' was published in the BRACU journal (Vol: vi No.1) in November 2009.



### **Amin and Sunida attend a training in Bangkok**

Mohammad Aminul Islam and Sunida Witayakarn, Lecturers of Centre for Languages, attended a training session on "Facilitation Skills Development" from November 2nd to November 13th at Asia Pacific Development Communitarian Centre (ADCC), Dhurakij Pundit University, Bangkok, Thailand. The training aimed at developing skills relevant to the effective delivery of development programmes. Furthermore, participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and professional

experiences across sectors, institutions and national borders through group discussions, presentation, case studies, role plays and other activities.

### **Cooperation agreement signed**

A cooperation agreement was signed between BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL) and the Open University, UK (UKOU) on October 22nd, 2009 at BRAC Centre, Dhaka. Ms. Claire Hedges, the Programme Co-ordinator, UKOU and Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar, Registrar, BRAC University signed the contract on behalf of their respective institutions. Ms. Syeda Sarwat Abed, the Director, CfL was present at the ceremony. According to the agreement, CfL will provide tutoring and assessment support to the participants of Make Your Teaching Experience Count (MYTEC), a project of UK Government funded English in Action (EIA) programme.



### **New Chinese Language instructor joins CfL**

Mr. Qilong Nie, Lecturer, Changchun University of Science and Technology, China, has joined BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL) as a Chinese Language Instructor. He will work as a fulltime lecturer for the next two years and offer different Chinese language modules to the prospective learners. Initially, all BRACU students and staffs will receive a discounted course fee (only Taka 1000). For other students the fee is Taka 3,000 only. Mr. Nie will be available at CfL during office hours for answering any queries regarding Chinese language studies and/or about the scholarships to study in China.

## CSE Update

### **CSE faculties attend International Conference on Gender Participation in the Development of Science**

Ms. Sadia Hamid Kazi and Ms. Afroza Sultana, faculties of CSE Department of BRAC University, attended the International Conference on Gender Participation in the Development of Science, held on November 14 - 15, 2009 at National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST). This conference was jointly organized by Bangladesh Academy of Science (BAS), Inter Academy Panel (IAP), Academy of Science for the Developing World (TWAS) and Network of Academics of Science in Islamic Countries (NASIC). The main objectives of the conference were to promote, recognize and support research in pure and applied science and their practical applications to problems of national welfare in Bangladesh, to disseminate scientific knowledge among people and to encourage women to participate in scientific research. Dr. Shamsheer Ali, President of Bangladesh Academy of Science and Vice Chancellor of South East University presided over the conference and Mr. Yeafesh Osman, Honorable Minister for Science and ICT was the chief guest of the conference. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, faculty of MNS Department, BRAC University was also in the organizing committee of the conference. Scientists from different countries including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Uganda, presented their papers on participation of women in science. Moreover, research papers on Engineering and Information Technology, Physical Science, Biological Science, Agricultural Science, etc. were also presented by the participants of the conference.

## ENH Update



### **Students of ENG 434 and ENG 649 go to Sonargaon for study tour**

Students of ENG 434 (Materials Design) and ENG 649 (Materials Design and Evaluation) were taken to Sonargaon Museum and Panam City as a part of the project work called "Pictorial ELT Materials" on the 7th of November, 2009. Each of the students of both the courses was equipped with a camera and took a lot of pictures. Among all the photos taken, students had to select a few good ones based on which they had to develop language teaching materials for elementary, secondary, intermediate and advanced level learners.

It was a day long trip and the learners had a fun time exploring the museum, and the old township of Panam and taking photos in both the places. Mr. Mahmudul Haque, the instructor for both the courses, Dr. Kris Peleg, a Fulbright Visiting Professor, Mr. Nazmul Hossain, DCO of the Department of ENH, and Mr. Rafiqul Islam, the Office Assistant of the department of ENH went with the students.

### **Opening of the Media Lab**

The Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the Media Lab on November 8th 2009. Faculty members from other departments were also present on the occasion. The purpose of having a media lab is that it would help students produce their own printed magazines, journals, short films and also record programs.



The media lab will provide an opportunity to introduce students to other forms of media reportage apart from the print media. This facility can be shared with the Development Studies Institute that have been using forms of digital and audio-visual recording for their various research projects. The Computer Science Department has also shown an interest about the media lab as new forms of digital media can be introduced here as well.

### **ENG 401 Guest Speaker Session**

Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, UPL spoke to the students of ENG 401 about the importance of editing and the challenges of being a publisher on 17th November 2009. His talk was titled "The Journey of a Book: From manuscript to bookshelf."



### **ENH Students participate in an International Festival**

Students of ENG114: Introduction to Drama participated in the International Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival held in Dhaka from 12-22 November, 2009. This was the biggest theatre festival in Asia. Renowned theatre directors and scholars from Pakistan, India, Nepal, Iran and Egypt participated in the programme. The ENH students paid a visit to Shilpakala Academy, the venue of the festival, to watch Punarjanmo, an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's play, When We Dead Awaken on 20th November.

The director Azad Abul Kalam is already scheduled to give a talk to BRACU students in December and this knowledge helped the students to note key points regarding character portrayal and stagecraft which they hope to be able to discuss with him later this semester. The students were given a brief outline of the play's plot and themes on their way to the venue, so they were able to appreciate the play and had a lot of questions to ask on their way back. They particularly enjoyed watching the last sequence where music and light had been used fabulously to create a scene of the entire story in rewind. The students were accompanied by their course teacher, Ms. Rukhsana R. Chowdhury and visiting faculty Dr. Kris Peleg.

### **Dr. Kris Peleg presents paper**

Dr. Kris Peleg presented a paper titled "Literature and Technology: Children's Lit Online" at the first Fulbright Alumni Association of Bangladesh (FAAB) International Conference in Dhaka held on November 21st 2009. The theme of the daylong conference was "Development: Tradition, Transition, Transformation" and the papers ranged in subject from history to agriculture, crafts to economics. The session was chaired by Professor Firdous Azim.

## **ENG:114 Guest Speaker Session**

Mr. Mannan Hira, a renowned theatre artist was invited to deliver a lecture on Stagecraft and Character Portrayal to the students of ENG 114: Introduction to Drama on 25th November, 2009. He spoke at length on issues regarding stage production. The actor/director gave some very useful tips to the students who are required to give a dramatic presentation at the end of the semester. This talk was followed by a highly interactive question answer session, where students got the opportunity to hear the inside story of what goes on behind the curtain preparation of a production.

## **IGS Update**

A four-days training on Governance, Democracy and Civil Service Leadership Programme was organized jointly by Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) - BRAC University, and Institute on Governance (IOG), Ottawa at the International Training Centre of BPATC from November 9 to 12, 2009. Eighteen civil servants of the rank of Deputy Secretary from different Ministries attended the program. The key objective of the program was to develop an understanding of governance and democracy among civil service leaders, and strengthen their knowledge and skills required in a democracy. International and local experts conducted the sessions. A video-conference session on Ethics and Values was also arranged at BRAC University campus.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of the Institute attended the Third Conference of the State Parties in Doha, Qatar from 9-13 November 2009 organized by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as part of the Bangladesh delegation. The delegation was lead by the Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed. The Conference was attended by 106 State Parties and 14 governments were there as observers. The objective of the conference was to improve the capacity of and cooperation between State Parties and to promote and review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

The Institute participated in the 'Third Forum of the Parliamentarians' in Doha, Qatar on 10 November 2009 organized by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). Mr. Saiful Bhuiyan of IGS presented the Action Plan (developed as a follow-up activity to address the findings and recommendations of the Bangladesh Compliance and Gap Analysis with UNCAC) in the forum. The aim of the Forum was to suggest parliamentarians to work with others to be truly effective in supporting the UNCAC and its effective implementation and review. A delegation consisting of three Members of Bangladesh Parliament also participated in the forum and the Conference of the State Parties.

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS conducted a three-day training course on "Interviewing and Source Development Techniques" from 2-4 November 2009 for the Dhaka University Correspondents of electronic and print media, who are also active members of Dhaka University Journalist Association (DUJA). This training focused on the different aspect of Interviewing and Source Development Techniques of Journalism. Mr. Ralph Frammolino, Award winning US Journalist (formerly with the Loss Angeles Times) was the Lead Trainer of the course.

JATRI Training Team organized a consultation meeting to exchange the experiences and challenges of photo journalism and accordingly to assess training needs for photo journalists on 15 November 2009 at JATRI board meeting room. Twenty photo journalists from different newspapers and news agencies participated in the meeting, where it was decided that JATRI Training Team would organize a three-day long training for the photo journalists on the ethics and standards of photo journalism and will also cover behavior and technical skill. This training is scheduled to be held next year.

The Affiliated Network on Social Accountability - South Asia (ANSA-SA), housed at the Institute, organized a three day residential proposal development workshop for the potential grantees at the Pegasus Reef Hotel in Colombo Sri Lanka from 23 to 25 November 2009. This regional workshop was attended by participants from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The purpose of this workshop was to train the participants in writing a proposal and also developing a common understanding of the context. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Suresh Raghavan.

## **MNS Update**

## **International Conference on Gender Participation in the Development of Sciences 14 - 15 November 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh**



Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam and Ms Adeeba Raihan participated in the International Conference on Gender Participation in the Development of Science, held at the NMST Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka 1207, and organized by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), the Inter Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP), the Network of Academies of Sciences in Islamic Countries (NASIC) and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS). The theme of the Conference was Women Scientists for

Development. In addition to the Fellows of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and about 10 scientists from Asia and Africa including Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Uganda nearly 300 women scientists from different academic and research organizations, both in the public and private sectors participated. They discussed the status of women in science education at the primary, secondary and higher levels in different countries and regions and ways and means of improving the methods of science education, status of women scientists in different countries, their problems in career building in professional lives and finding out the means for improving the present situation.

Architect, Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, GOB was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony, presided over by Professor M. Shamsheer Ali, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and moderated by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury. In his inaugural speech the State Minister said that the government is committed to ensure women's participation in all the programmes and activities of the government including promotion of science and technology. He also mentioned in his speech that without participation of women the vision 2021 could not be materialized. Professor Choudhury delivered the welcoming address.

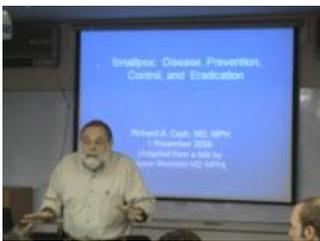
## **Farewell of Ms Sanjida Akter and Mr. Md. Ashraful Islam Bhuiya, 18 November, 2009**

A programme was arranged to bid farewell to Ms. Sanjida Akter, Lecturer in Physics and Mr. Md. Ashraful Islam Bhuiya, Teaching Assistant in Biotechnology who would be joining the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission as Scientific Officers. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and a few other faculty members of the MNS Department spoke on the occasion.

## **SPH Update**

### **Academic Programs**

#### ***MPH program***



#### **Courses**

The MPH course Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (MPH 620) took place through November 1-19, 2009. Dr. Richard Cash and Dr. Steve Luby coordinated the module. Dr. Mizanur Rahman also taught while other renowned lecturers from ICDDR,B and IEDCR took few classes. Dr. Sadia Afreen from ICDDR,B's; Dr. Taufique Joarder and Asif Kashem from JPGSPH acted as the Teaching Assistants for the module. At the end of the module students delivered presentations along

with a report based on their field experiences.

A 3-day "Methodology Workshop" for MPH students was held on November 21-.25, 2009 to review research methodology, scientific writing, and practical issues in the field. Dr. Nasima Selim coordinated the workshop; Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dr. Quamrun Nahar, Dr. Kazi Mizanur Rahman, Tanvir Hasan and Dorothy Southern were the faculty members, Eram Cooper and Owassim Akram served as Teaching Assistants.

#### **Field visits**

As part of the Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (MPH 620) course, students carried out extensive field works divided into 7 groups in 5 field sites. The sites were ICDDR,B surveillance site at Matlab, ICDDR,B urban surveillance site at Kamalapur, ICDDR,B field site at Mirpur, ICDDR,B Dhaka Hospital (popularly known as Cholera Hospital) and BRAC urban Manoshi field site at Mohammadpur.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (CEP)**

The second course on of "EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT (ECPHM): An Innovative Capacity Development Program for Health Professionals in the Public Sector" specifically tailored for health officials from the MoH&FW was completed on November 19 ,2009.This course is the second one of the year, the first was held in May 2009. The 6-week fully residential ECPHM course for the government health officials ran from October 11- November 19, 2009 including week-long field trips. The course accommodated 25 (twenty-five) government officials.

Dr. G. Samdani, Pro Vice Chancellor chaired the certificate ceremony and handed over the certificates to the graduating public sector health officials. First Secretary Ms. Rachel Payne from Australian High Commission attended the ceremony as the Chief Guest, Mr. Shahrukh Safi, AusAID attended the ceremony as a Special Guest. Dr Jalal Uddin Ahmed Asst Director, BRAC Health Programme and Dr Kaosar Afsana, Assistant Director of the BRAC Health Program was also present.

## **HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES**



Mr. Andrew Jenkins from BRAC DLO (Donor Liaison Office) gave a presentation to the MPH students on 'Environment, Health and Participatory Water Resource Management'. The Seminar was held on November 5, 2009 at the MPH classroom beside Sasakawa Auditorium at the ICDDR,B Mohakhali.

### **Centres and Research Initiatives**

#### **Centre for health systems studies**

Revitalizing Health for All: Developing a comprehensive Primary Health Care model for Bangladesh (CPHC project): Data analysis of both quantitative and qualitative part of the project has been started.

#### **CENTRE FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS**

Gender Based Violence Research: The Centre's research on Gender Based Violence in Urban Slums is progressing at a rapid pace. We have completed our screening data collection and are preparing to start in-depth interviews by mid December. The collaborative GBV study in Dhaka and Nairobi is part of the DFID funded Realizing Rights research consortium.

#### **Realising Rights Annual Meeting**

James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University in Bangladesh, partner of Realizing Rights Research Programme Consortium (RPC) hosted the Annual Planning Meeting of Realizing Rights RPC on November 24, 2009 at BRAC Centre. A total of 12 participants from APHRC, Kenya, INDEPTH-Network, Ghana, LSHTM and IDS, UK, and JPGSPH, BRAC University, Bangladesh attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to discuss among the partners ongoing progress with dissemination activities and outputs for the final year, sharing experience and achievements of the RPC from the perspective of the "story", the cross-RPC final dissemination event, next year's budget and future research partnerships and links after the RPC.



#### **Realizing Rights Communication Strategies for 2010 Meeting**

Members of the Realizing Rights research consortium met on November 26, 2009 to discuss communication strategies for the upcoming year. The RPC will conclude with national and international dissemination events, including an International Men's Health Conference in Dhaka in June 2010. Participants discussed ways to engage with different audiences including journalists, policy makers, NGO's, donors, law enforcement and the general population, and brainstormed on effective communication strategies to disseminate the findings from the ongoing research projects funded by RPC and DFID.

#### **One Day, One Struggle Campaign**

On November 9, 2009, over 20 organizations held simultaneous events and public demonstrations as part of the historic international campaign "One Day One Struggle" organized by the Coalition for Sexual and

Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR). A very diverse group of NGOs staged bold actions in 11 countries (across North Africa Middle East, South and Southeast Asia participating in this endeavour) to assert that sexual and reproductive rights are universal human rights based on the inherent freedom, dignity and equality of all human beings. The Centre of Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS (CGSH) in support of the international struggle for universal human rights organized a seminar facilitated by Dr. Dina Siddiqui to disseminate her research project on contemporary sexual patterns of urbanites in Dhaka.

### **GFATM project - 913**

#### **Partners Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting**

A PCC (Partners Coordination Committee) meeting of GFATM project 913 was held on November 22, 2009 at JPGSPH conference room of BRAC University, Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Ismat Bhuiya, Team Leader of JPGSPH, BRAC University Consortium and Senior Program Officer of Population Council, Bangladesh. All the Focal Persons of the consortium and representatives of the Save the Children USA attended the meeting. Development of the activity plan, indicators for quality program, and financial management and reporting were the main agenda of the meeting. This was a monthly meeting of the consortium for sharing the updates of the activities. Moreover, it was mentioned that the second phase of GFATM round 6 projects was started in May 2009. An agreement between the management agency Save the Children USA and James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University was signed. Subsequently, agreement between JPGSPH, BRAC University consortium partners was made.

### **Workshop**

#### **Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Men in Rangpur**

JPGSPH organized three regional workshops on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Men in Rangpur on November 21, 2009 in RDRS Auditorium, Rangpur. The participants of the workshops were community people, specialists on venereal diseases, NGO health workers, Representatives took part ranging from different local and national newspapers to informal providers like village doctors, Kabiraj/Hakim, homeopath etc. Owasim Akram, Research Associate at the School, shared research findings on Men's Sexual and Reproductive Health during the workshops. Dr. Shah Mohammad Riazul Islam, Civil Surgeon, Rangpur attended the workshops as the Chief Guest. Md. Rafiqul Islam, UHFPO, Gangachara Upazilla Health Complex; Dr. Salima Rahman, Director-Community Health, staffs of BRAC Health Program were present at the workshops. The workshops got coverage in different local and national newspapers along with a news clip in the Banglavisision channel (One of the leading private television channel in Bangladesh.).

#### **Multi-Disciplinary Workshop on Research Methodologies for Studying Sexual Health**



The Research Programme Consortium on Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health for Poor and Vulnerable Populations "Realising Rights" held a two day multi-disciplinary workshop on 'Research methodologies for studying sexual health' for researchers and others working with vulnerable populations. The workshop was organised by the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University on November 22-23, 2009 at BRAC Centre. James P Grant It was facilitated by Dr Martine Collumbien and Dr Sarah Hawkes, experienced researchers in this field from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical

Medicine and University College London, UK. Respectively. The workshop drew on their recently completed work on sex workers and vulnerable minorities in Pakistan. A total of 32 people attended the workshop.

### **Seminars**

Dr Dina Siddqui, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network at CGSH, shared the findings of her pioneering research project on sexuality and rights in urban Bangladesh on November 9, 2009 at Spectra Convention Centre. The research team also included Mahrukh Mohuddin and Hasan Ashraf as principal investigators. This exploratory study, the first of its kind, maps the multiple and shifting understandings of sexuality, identity and rights among university students, factory workers, and sexual and gender minorities in Dhaka city. The dissemination event was part of the historic international campaign "One Day One Struggle" organized by the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR).

### **Meetings and Visits**

### **Professor Davison Munodawafa Regional Advisor, Health Promotion & Education**

Focal point, Social Determinants of Health WHO SEARO (Regional Office for South-East Asia) visited the School on November 14, 2009 to discuss issues related to the recently completed research project on 'Globalization as Social Determinant of Health: Influence on food consumption pattern of Asian College Students' in which Dr. Nasima Selim & Dr. Taufique Joarder were co-investigators. Dr. Shahaduz Zaman (on leave) was the principal investigator.

### **Faculty news**

Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, attend the third meeting of WHO expert group in increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention on November 23-26, 2009.

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network at JPGSPH,, attended a round table discussion held by Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) at the The Daily Jugantor headquarters on "Universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and Care & support for MSM and Hijra" November 14, 2009.

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network at JPGSPH, attended the view-exchange meeting on the draft bill of Domestic Violence (prevention and protection) Act-2009 organized by Ministry for Women and Children Affairs on November 24, 2009 at BIAM Foundation, Dhaka. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury was also present at the meeting as the chief guest.

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network at JPGSPH, also attended a meeting organized by Bandhu and UNAIDS on the consultation of section 377 of the Bangladesh Penal Code/. The meeting was held at UNAIDS head office on November 29, 2009.

### **FACULTY publications**

Dr Sabina F Rashid, MPH Coordinator and Associate Professor at JPGSPH, published a piece titled Bringing Sexuality and Rights into the Open in Bangladesh in Health Insights (issue 78), an IDS Knowledge Services publication, in October 2009.

Papers submitted by Dr. Taufique Joarder have been accepted for presentation in 2 international conferences. His 'Socio-cultural dynamics in an Upazila Health Complex: An exploration', 'Revitalizing health for all: Developing a Comprehensive Primary Health Care model for Bangladesh' (as Co-author with Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH) and 'Globalization as social determinant of health: Influence on food consumption among young people in Bangladesh' (as Co-author with Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer at JPGSPH) were selected for 'Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) Conference' in Taiwan. His 'Human Resources for Health scenario at Upazila Health Complexes of Bangladesh: An exploration' was accepted for presentation at 'Joint AAAH/WHO Conference' in Hanoi, Vietnam on November 23-25, 2009. He was fully sponsored for the presentation by Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Health (AAAH) and presented the paper in 'Social and Spiritual Motivation' session of the conference.

### **New faculty and interns**

#### **New Faculty**

Mr. Md. Kamrul Hassan has joined in the JPGSPH as Documentation & Communication Specialist for GFATM 913 project on November 01, 2009. Mr. Hassan has long working experience in the field of documentation, communication, research and programme management in the area of HIV/AIDS, women and human rights issues, community development and gender; ample experience to prepare and develop communication materials, oversee of printed materials, accumulative data for documentation and report writing, monitoring and evaluation as well as playing active role of an output oriented team.

Mr. K. M. Zahiduzzaman has joined in the JPGSPH as Field Research Officer for GFATM 913 project on November 01, 2009. He has completed his master degree in sociology and has been working in the

development field with diversified marginalized and vulnerable groups in population and public health sector for over eight (8) years. His areas of interest are sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, adolescent health, gender, maternal and child health. He has developed several training manuals and behavioral change communication (BCC) materials on sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Tahmina Sultana has joined in the JPGSPH as Field Research Officer for GFATM 913 project on November 01, 2009. She has completed her graduation in Sociology and achieved the professional degree in Master of Population Sciences from University of Dhaka. She has been working in the development field for more than four (4) years with marginalized and vulnerable groups in population and public health sector in two international organizations. Her area of interest is population dynamics, reproductive health especially maternal and child health, adolescent health and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman has joined in the JPGSPH as Field Research Officer for GFATM 913 project on November 01, 2009. Mr Rahman has expertise in qualitative research. He has 3 years working experience in public health research, particularly in HIV/AIDS and reproductive health issues. He has also experiences in developing training modules related to HIV/AIDS issues.

## **Student Affairs Update**

### **HoV @ BRACU**

#### **A day in the street with JAAGO**

HoV @ BRAC University (House of Volunteers at BRAC University) was given the privilege to participate in the event coordinated by JAAGO Foundation on the 18th of November 2009 to collect money by selling flowers on behalf of the street children who were sent to Wonderland to forget their monotonous life to enjoy just for few hours on Universal Children's Day. HoV- BRACU and JAAGO has been working hand in hand ever since the first orientation program of HoV took place at our campus. The main purpose of this collaboration was to work together for the empowerment of the education of the underprivileged children.

### **BRACU PERECONS**

#### **Handball Tournament 2009**

In Bangladesh, sports for girls are regarded as a good-for-nothing activity by many, and for BRACU girls, these sports seemed to have been limited within the TARC semester only. A small try to change this trend came up with the idea of an Intra-university "Handball Tournament 2009" organized by BRACU PERECONS, the women sports club of BRAC University. In total, four teams participated in this league tournament and each of the players in these teams played with full spirit and enthusiasm. The venue for this was none other than the TARC Campus, Savar, itself, where many girls realized their hidden playing spirit. The initial matches were held at the weekends, after which came the final match on November 20, 2009. Huge crowd gathered the event with extreme excitement and support. The chief guest then there was the respected Pro-Vice chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Md Golam Samdani Fakir and his appreciation regarding this event boosted up the spirit within the players even more. Also present there was the respected Campus Super of TARC Campus, Savar, Dr. Bari, a few more faculties of BRAC University and, of course, the huge crowd of BRACU students. At the end, the honorable chief guest distributed the prizes between the winning team and the runners-up team and also to some more players for excellent performance throughout the tournament. Overall, it was a successful event and a remarkable initiator to move on with events of such kinds at BRAC University and other universities.

### **AIESEC in BRACU**

#### **Developing Leadership Day**

With the message, 'They were not born leaders, they earned it' AIESEC in BRAC University organized the first ever Developing Leadership Day of the Local Committee with HSBC, Rahimafrooz and Energypac as learning partners on 24th November, Tuesday. DLD is a daylong workshop designed for the interaction between participants and top level corporate houses, where the learning materials used are the same materials these companies use to train their own employees. Organized by AIESEC - the world's largest student-run organization is the international platform for students and recent graduates to explore and develop their potential to have a positive impact on society. Leaders of different enterprises ' Mr. Syed A H

Uddin, the Head of HR, HSBC, Mr. Shamsul Haque Ahmed, G.M. Human Resources, Rahimafrooz Distribution Limited, and Mr. Minarul Islam, Manager, HR & Administration, Energypac Engineering Ltd. ' conducted the whole workshop, facilitated the training and provided the learning materials.

### **BRAC University Cricket Club**

BRAC University Cricket Club organized one of the most entertaining events in this Fall Semester (fall'09). The event titled BUPL (BRAC University Premier League) was a Cricket Tournament participated by Eight Clubs/Forums of BRAC University. The Tournament was a Smash Hit even before it commenced. The tournament officially took off with the launch of BUPL logo by the Honorable Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Zainab Faruqi Ali. The format of BUPL supported eight clubs/forums but 10 clubs applied for registration. Two clubs were eliminated through voting by the students of BRAC University. After the selection of the 8 clubs/forums, the collection of 40 pool players was raised on Auction. BUFC emerged as the First Champion of BUPL. BUIGC was the Runner Up of the tournament.

### **BRAC University Cultural Club**

#### **Annual Cultural Competition 2009**

BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) held the Award Ceremony for Annual Cultural Competition 2009 on 12th November, 2009. BRAC University Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury was the chief guest at the event and handed over the awards to the 35 winners in 9 categories. The Annual Cultural Competition was held over a three day period from 26 to 29th October, 2009 to accommodate the competitions in nine categories and a hundred plus registered competitors. The categories were: Nazrul Geeti, Rabindra Sangeet, Folk Songs, Modern Songs, Band Songs, Classical Songs, Instrumental Music, Recitation (Bangla), Dance (Classical)

#### **Annual Cultural Program 2009**

The BRAC University Annual Cultural Program 2009 on the 23rd of November, 2009 at the Shahid Zia Auditorium in the National Museum. This year for their color scheme, keeping the 'worse by the day' condition of the environment, BUCuC decided to '...go green!' The entire set was designed in different vibrant shades of green with banners flaring from both sides of the stage with a message to all the views to 'go green'.

In presence of the chief guest of the program, BRAC University Pro-VC Professor Golam Samdani Fakir and the guest of Honor, Dr. Zainab Faruqi Ali, Director Student Affairs, BRAC University the program started with a bang as the audience were left captivated by a slideshow featuring BUCuC behind the scenes and on stage. Moving on into the program Professor Golam Samdani Fakir inaugurated BUCuC's online radio at [www.radiobucuc.com](http://www.radiobucuc.com), which is an attempt by the BUCuC-ians to create their own space on the internet. Right after the inauguration the show started off with a mesmerizing group dance, which was followed by 17 tremendous songs and 2 more dance performances.

One after another, each performance seemed to be growing ten folds better than the last, the evening was an assimilation of the best talents of BRAC University under one roof to showcase their talent at the biggest show of the year. With every passing year, BUCuC has tried to push itself further higher in terms of performance levels and performer benchmarks. This year, contrary to the tradition of hiring professional musicians for all instruments used in the show, BUCuC members took charge and played the rhythm, lead and bass guitars themselves for all the songs and the percussions for some songs too! The Annual Cultural Program 2009 was definitely a night to remember for all who witnessed it, as they were left mesmerized with yet another BUCuC signature event!

### **Computer Club, BUCC Activities**



#### **Technical Seminar on jQuery: write less, do more**

The seminar on jQuery took place on 11th December 2009. Mohammad Amzad Hossain of [jhorotek.com](http://jhorotek.com) conducted the session. Seminar the speaker explained how to use jQuery to solve complicated query in a simple way. jQuery is a lightweight JavaScript library that emphasizes on interaction between JavaScript and HTML. Working with RAW JavaScript or DOM Programming does bring-in its challenges

while handling browser-specific quirks. JQuery provides quite a few utilities to help working in browser agnostic environments. JQuery library strikes right balance between size, feature set and ease of use. It was attended by students interested in practical implementation of web technologies.

### **Seminar on Mobile Application Development with Google Android**

Android is an open software platform for mobile application development from Google. This seminar was held on 21st December 2009 and was conducted by Avishek Ahmed. The main theme of the seminar was to give an introduction to Mobile Application Development (MAD) using Android platform, how to use the architecture of Android for developing the application, what are the available tools and how to utilize those. Attendees were very excited to watch some demo video on how the android is used as real mobile application. It showed how Android is going to change the way we use mobile phones radically. Students felt a strong interest in being part of related projects and demanded integration of the same into their course curriculum as much as possible.

## **Career Services Update**

### **Job Placement Update November 2009:**

Md. Rezaul Haider Standard Chartered Bank Limited  
Md. Rakibul Hasan Double A Papers Limited  
Ahmed Tuhin Reza Expolanka Group  
Md. Rakibul Hasan British American Tobacco Bangladesh  
Sabrina Ali Bitopi  
Shoily Shamonti Gemcon Group  
Samina Rabiul Alam Telnet

### **Internship Placement Update Fall 2009**

Placed By	Number	Percentage
CSO	37	70%
Self	16	30%
Total	53	100%

### **"The Interview" Fall 2009**

Career Services Office (CSO), BRAC University has organized "The Interview" for the students of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), Fall 2009 on November 19, 2009 at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium. This event has been organized as a modular component of PSDP for the 5th time by CSO. This session enables a two way communication to bridge our students and the prospective employers greatly. Ms. Sabrina

Shahidullah, In-Charge, CSO shared a brief welcome note with the participating organizations and Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director, BRAC Business School has inaugurated the program with an inspiring speech. A number of nine organizations from various sectors have participated at the event namely Aarong, Augere, BRAC, BRAC Bank, bracNet, Citycell, Prime Bank Ltd., Square Pharmaceuticals and Novotel. An interactive interview session took place and about 120 interviews were made before rounding up. Both participating employers and students had the chance to interact effectively through interviews. After each interview an evaluation form has been filled-up by the interviewers provided by CSO. These evaluations will be shown to respective students later on if further work is needed on particular areas. Most of the organizations have made a good number of on spot job and internship offers to students.



## **RS Update**

### **Social Lab**

On 14th November the second social lab exercise of the present RS took place. For that day students took the responsibility of all regular management staffs; from the campus super down to cleaners and laundry personnel to run the campus for the day.

This exercise was aimed at to give the students a real feel to work and people at every walk of life. Total 95

students participated in this exercise.

### **Sports**

The final games of the tournaments of different kinds of games happening for three months - September, October, and November - were held in November. In the handball final of girls held on 23 November Lokmukhi became the champion scoring 9 goals by defeating Roshidoy Dorm. Chhayaneer became the champion and Krisnochura runner-up in the boys' cricket final held on 13th November. Boys' Football final was held on 21st November and Krisnochura became the champion and Chhayaneer the runner-up.

### **Cultural Evening**

On November 18, 2009 the Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening. Students of all dorms participated in the cultural program. The audience reveled in the rendition of music and Dance playing to their heart's content. The students of RS organized this evening.



### **APON Visit**

To expose them with the life and living with Drugs addiction, a total 38 students of RS visited APON, a rehabilitation centre for the addicted people, which is situated at Apon Gaon, Singair, Manikgonj. The students visited the centre in different phases. They shared their experiences with those in the centre who ventilated the disastrous impact of narcotics on them. The visit will surely leave an everlasting mark on the mind of the RS students and help them to be away from being fallen prey to narcotics.

### **BBS Seminar**

BBS Seminar was held on 20th November at 10 am at MARKULI HALL. The Director of BBS, along with faculties, was present in the seminar. All the students of BBS at campus also attended the seminar. Students shared their pains and gains at Savar Campus with their teachers.